

# Weekly Review for MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

University Farm, St. Paul 1, October 2, 1947

LAST ISSUE OF WEEKLY REVIEW. This is the last issue of the Weekly Review. It has perhaps fulfilled its purpose, not the least of which was to help agents keep abreast of fast-breaking wartime regulations. With the removal of practically all of such regulations much of the need for this Review has passed.

The economic information which it carried will be handled as fully as possible through regular news releases. Its staff news will reach you through a monthly letter, soon to be started, from Director Miller's office.

HELEN DAVIS APPOINTED TO STAFF. Helen Davis, Barneveld, Wisconsin, has been appointed to the Minnesota 4-H club staff with headquarters at University Farm. As state 4-H club agent she will work with 4-H clubs throughout the state on home economics projects. A graduate in home economics from the University of Wisconsin, Miss Davis has been home agent in Juneau and Grant counties in Wisconsin for the past five years. An active 4-H member herself for eight years, she has also served as summer club leader in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, and during the past year trained 57 demonstration and judging teams.

FHA NOW. Under the new insured-mortgage program of the Farmers Home Administration private credit sources have increased opportunity to participate in the financing of family-type farm purchases. Congress recently appropriated an insured mortgage fund which will enable FHA to insure loans made by private lenders up to 90 per cent of the reasonable value of the farm. In addition, direct farm-purchase and farm-operating loans will be available as heretofore. All loans made or insured by the FHA are for farmers who cannot obtain adequate credit elsewhere.

Programs which will be operated during the coming year include:

Production and subsistence: This will provide short-term credit at 5 per cent interest for the purchase of seed, feed, articles for family living, livestock, and farm equipment. If a farmer must make a major adjustment in his farm and home operations, FHA supervisors will also provide guidance in making the changes. Approximately \$68,000,000 will be available for such loans.

Farm ownership, enlargement, and development: Includes both direct Government loans and insurance of loans by private lenders for the purchase, enlargement, and development of family-type farms. These loans will bear  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest and run 40 years. Repayments will be made on a variable payment plan which permits repayment of large amounts in good crop years so that a reserve may be built up against possible low income in bad years. Loans are made only after a county committee of three local persons, at least two of whom are farmers, have appraised the farm and certified that it can be purchased, at a price based on long-time earning-capacity values. This committee also certifies applicant eligibility. During fiscal 1948, 15 million dollars will be available for direct loans.

Water facilities: These loans will be made to individuals and to groups requiring credit for the installation or use of water facilities necessary for the most efficient use of their farm or ranch lands in the 17 Western States. The appropriation for these loans is \$1,500,000.

(over)



Veterans will be given preference in all programs.

"With the reduced personnel, loan funds and the heavy demand for our assistance, we must exert every effort to extend the benefits of our program to the largest possible number of deserving families," Administrator Dillard B. Lasseter recently told a meeting of State directors in Washington.

DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT REPORT. Cows in dairy-herd-improvement-association herds established another new high record in 1946 by producing an average of 8,635 pounds of milk and 349 pounds of butterfat per cow. So goes the report from the Agricultural Research Administration's Bureau of Dairy Industry. The previous high record was established in 1945 when the average production of association cows was 8,592 pounds of milk and 346 pounds of butterfat.

CANADA HAS NEW TYPE SHEEP. A new type of sheep, known as the Romnelet, has been produced in Canada by crossing the Romney March, a long wool animal, with the Rambouillet a fine wool producer. Officials at the Dominion Experimental Farms, who developed it, say it may make Canada independent of imported wool supplies, and that it may yield wool equal to the best produced anywhere in the world.

THE FATS AND OILS SITUATION. Sept. 1 crop conditions indicated that production of cottonseed and flaxseed this year will increase substantially over last, that the peanut crop will be moderately larger, but that soybean production will decline. If these crops turn out as expected, and non-crushing uses of oilseeds are about the same as last year, the output of edible vegetable oils in the year beginning October 1947 may be 100 to 150 million lbs. larger than the 2,950 million lbs. produced in 1946-47. Output of linseed oil will be substantially larger than in 1946-47.

MORE COMPLETE USE OF MILK AND ITS BYPRODUCTS IS GOAL OF RESEARCH. In an effort to make more efficient use of the 40 billion lbs. of skim milk and 10 billion lbs. of whey that are produced in this country each year, research has been approved for work on this problem under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced. The work will be divided into two projects, both of which will be conducted by the Bureau of Dairy Industry.

RESEARCH SEEKS BETTER METHODS OF FREEZING AND REFRIGERATING MILK AND CREAM. Research into improved methods of freezing and refrigerating milk and cream, without loss of its fresh quality, is another project approved under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, the Department of Agriculture said recently. The research, to be conducted by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, is expected to contribute toward more complete utilization of milk and may have adaptation to seasonal milk marketing problems, which were cited as important by the Dairy Advisory Committee.

FIRST FEDERALLY INSURED LOAN TO BUY FARM. The first Federally insured farm purchase loan in the United States will be made next Friday, October 3, at Americus, Georgia. During a special ceremony at Americus, a local banker will deliver a check to Robert A. Hale for 90 per cent of the purchase price of the farm, and Dillard B. Lasseter, Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration, will present the banker a Government certificate guaranteeing repayment of the loan. The occasion launches a nationwide Government program, authorized by recent legislation, to help veterans, tenants, sharecroppers, and farm laborers buy farms of their own and enlarge or improve inadequate units through private credit sources.